unemployment *viz.* the NSS 38th Round, the number of women workers in 1983 by the Usual (Principal) Activity Status was 72.80 million. The women employed in the organised sector in 1983-84 as per the estimate of the EMI Programme of the Ministry of Labour were 3.058 million.

An increased outlay of Rs. 261 crores has been provided in the current year's outlay of the epartment of Women & Child Development for women and children in relation to last year's (1988-89) outlay of Rs. 235 crores. Besides, benefits to children and women will also accrue from general sectoral programmes.

Explosion at Dehu Road Ordnance Factory, Pune

777. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an explosion ripped through the Dehu Road Ordnance Factory at Pune on the 26th March, 1989 due to which four persons were killed and many were injured;

(b) whether the causes of the explosion have since been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to provide safety to the workers engaged in ordnance factories in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. As a result of the explosion, four industrial workers died, 16 industrial workers received minor injuries.

(b) to (d) A Board of Enquiry under the Controller of Quality Assurance (Military Explosives) has been constituted on 26.3.89 by the Ordnance Factories Board Calcutta to ascertain the cause of the accident and suggest remedial measures. The report of the Board of Enquiry is awaited in the Ministry. In addition to all safety provisions in force in the Ordnance factories; at present, any further remedial measures suggested by the Enquiry Board will also be duly considered for adoption on receipt of the report of the Board of Enquiry by the Ordnance Factories Board.

Food Inspectors in Prevention of Food Adulteration, Delhi Administration

778. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Local (Health) Authorities and Food Inspectors presently working in the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration, Delhi Administration, Delhi;

(b) whether any criteria has been laid down by the Department to send Local Health Authorities and Food Inspectors on roads; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a)to (c) As per the information provided by the Delhi Administration, there are five Local (Health) Authorities and 27 Food Inspectors presently working under the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration, Delhi and no specific criteria has been laid down for sending them on raids.

Defence Public Sector Undertakings

779. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the corrective steps taken so far to improve the capacity utilisation in those Defence Public Sector Undertakings in which it is not satisfactory; and

(b) the details of the steps taken so far in each Defence Public Sector Undertaking, project-wise, to arrest the trend of cost and time over-runs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN *THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE* (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) During the year 1988-89, the capacity utilisation as percentage of standard manhours available in seven of the eight Defence Public Sector Undertakings was between 90-100 per cent. In the case of one where the capacity utilisation has been somewhat low, this can be attributed primarily to the product mix of the Company which comprises of development and production of high-tech. items in small volumes. A number of steps have been taken to improve the capacity utilisation of this undertaking e.g. execution of orders from potential customers in small quantitities to gain customer confidence, development of new products (using in-house technology and through collaboration agreements) for which a considerable demand exists in the market, and obtaining a ban from the Government on import of certain products produced by the Company.

2. A large number of projects are being executed by the Defence PSUs and their progress is reviewed on a regular basis in the Department and the deficiencies in performance discussed and steps for rectification. It has been recognised that tackling time over-runs and completion of projects within the projected costs is essentially a management problem which can be solved by anticipating problems and taking timely remedial action. The Chief Executive of the Defence PSUs have been urged to take remedial action in this regard by ensuring that adequate inputs are provided at the stage of preparation of the project report itself; making one single individual accountable for the execution of the project and drawing up concurrent plans for execution of civil works, erection of plant and machinery and subsequent commissioning.

Manufacturing/launching of Agni Missile

780. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position with regard to the manufacture and launching of India's first intermediate-*range ballistic missile (IBRM), AGNI;*

(b) by when its production is likely to commence;

(c) what will be the yearly production thereof;

(d) what are the exact implications of this Missile in relation to advances made in the Missile technology and defence preparedness; and

(e) whether any superpower has opposed the Indian Missile progress; if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) Preparations are going on for the flight testing of AGNI during early part of May 1989. AGNI is a technology demonstration programme; there is no proposal for its productionisation.

(d) Successful launch of AGNI will establish indigenous competence in certain key areas of missile technology like multi-stage propulsion, closed-loop guidance and control etc. This will be a significance step towards self reliance in advanced technologits for defence preparedness.